informed of Government's policies for improvement of infrastructure in India; simplification of rules and regulations; steps towards meeting obligations under Trade Related Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) Agreement of the World Trade Organisation; a transparent and efficient regulatory regime in different fields; and taxation incentives for foreign investments.

Facilities to tobacco growers

1777. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are providing special port facilities for the export of Virginia Tobacco;

(b) whether it is a fact that tobacco is the traditional export of lakhs of farmers;

(c) the special benefits Government propose to give to the farmers who depend on tobacco exports;

(d) whether any transport subsidy would be given for their exports; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Over 50 per cent of the Flue Cured Virginia (FCV) tobacco produced in the country is exported.

(c) The Government does not propose to extend any special benefit to FCV tobacco growers.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Duty on import of agricultural items

1778. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the agricultural items, on which import duty has been reduced;